

## Protection Tips:

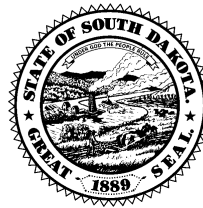
Carefully review your bill  
*every month.*

Examine your bill in the same  
manner as you review your  
credit card bill or banks  
statements:

- ♦ Do you recognize the  
names of all the  
companies listed?
- ♦ What services were  
provided by these  
companies?
- ♦ Does the bill include  
charges for services or  
calls you didn't authorize?
- ♦ Are the rates the same as  
what you were promised?

Carefully read all forms and  
promotional materials -  
including the fine print -  
before signing up for  
telephone service.

Shop around for a company  
that has the best "plan" for  
you.



**Consumer Affairs Division  
Public Utilities Commission  
500 E Capitol  
Pierre SD 57501**

**Phone: 800-332-1782  
Fax: (605) 773-3809  
Email: [Leni.Healy@state.sd.us](mailto:Leni.Healy@state.sd.us)**

# Puzzled?

about charges  
on your  
telephone bill?

**South Dakota  
Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre SD 57501**

**Call: 800-332-1782**



## New Charges on Your Telephone Bill

As a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and decisions of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), you may see new charges on your telephone bill. Some of those charges are explained in this flyer.

### Federal Subscriber Line Charge (SLC)

This FCC fee allows local telephone companies to cover some of the costs of providing telecommunications service to individual locations.

This fee is currently capped at \$3.50 per month for a primary **residential line**. The maximum charge for additional lines is \$6.07.

The maximum subscriber line charge for a single-line **business** is currently capped at \$3.50 per month. The current multi-line business charge is \$7.17 per line per month.

This charge has nothing to do with the number or type of calls a customer places or receives. It is not a charge for making or receiving long distance calls.

### Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charge (PICC)

Long distance companies pay local companies to help recover the costs of providing the “local loop.” Local loop is a term that refers to the outside telephone wires, underground conduit, telephone poles, and other facilities that link each telephone customer to the telephone network.

The FCC has determined that the maximum charge for a primary residential line is \$1.04 per line per month. The maximum charge for additional lines is \$2.53 per line per month. The maximum charge for a multi-line business is \$4.31 per line per month.

### Universal Service Fund

The FCC created the Universal Service Fund to provide support for telecommunication service to rural and low-income consumers, schools, libraries, and health care providers in rural areas.

All interstate telecommunications carriers must contribute to this fund. Each company will individually determine how it will recover this expense and may pass it

on to their customers. They may also call this a Universal Connectivity Charge.

### Number Portability Charge

Local telephone companies can only assess this charge in areas where number portability is available. Consumers are allowed to keep their telephone number when they switch local telephone service. The FCC has allowed local companies to recover the costs associated with the upgrade in equipment to allow for the transfer of the number. This charge is usually around 50 cents per month for a residential line and may be assessed up to 5 years. The charge to businesses with special lines may be higher.

**Consumers may shop around for the telecommunications companies which serve them best. Some companies may choose not to assess these charges to their customers.**